of India Press for publication in the official Gazette seeking suggestions within 21 days. The draft Rules provides that "every licencee of a Blood Bank shall get sample of every blood unit tested for freedom from HIV antibodies from such laboratories specified for the purpose by the Central Government. Date of performing this test shall be recorded on the label of the container also."

Purchase of Machinery for Ayurveda and Unani Pharmacists in Andhra Pradesh

781. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received a proposal from Government of Andhra Pradesh for grant for purchase of machinery to be provided for Pharmacists in Ayurveda and Unani pending with the Government of India during the last one year; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Two Pharmacies at Hyderabad (one each in Ayurveda and Unani) were approved for assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Development of ISM Pharmacies including Herbal Farms and Drug Testing Laboratories in the State" during the years 1977-78 and 1982-83 respectively. Under the scheme, the pattern of assistance stipulates that assistance will be restricted to the minimum needs of the State Pharmacy not exceeding Rs 8.00 lakhs both for non-recurring and recurring expenditure including expenditure on purchase of machinery. The Ayurvda Pharmy at Hyderabad has been provided the maximum assistance of Rs. 8.00 lakhs The other Unani Pharmacy has been provided assistance upto Rs. 5.48 lakhs so far. This Pharmacy is eligible for further assistance of Rs. 2.52 lakhs in instalments on the basis of the progress achieved

Starting of P. G. Courses in Ayurveda System

782. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal sent by Government of Andhra Pradesh for starting P.G. courses in Darvyaguna and Vaisajyakalpaa of Ayurveda system is pending with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for delay in clearing the same; and

(c) when Government propose to clear these schemes;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Request for introduction of Post Graduate courses in Dravyaguna Rasa-tantra and Vhaishajyakalpaa in the Government Ayurved College, Vijayawada was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in July, 1984.

(b) and (c) It is not possible to accept the proposal due to resource constraints.

Development of Atomic Energy for peaceful purposes

783. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is one of the select group of nations to have mastered the technology for the development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes;

(b) if so, what are the principal achievements in different areas of application of nuclear energy, particularly in industrial health and power;

(c) whether the Indian help has been sought by any other country to develop application of nuclear energy in such fields as power and industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Technology has been developed in the country covering the entire range of activities from prospecting for atomic minerals, fabrication of nuclear fuel, setting up of nuclear power plants, reprocessing of spent fuel and management of wastes. Six nuclear power reactors with the total installed capacity of 1230 MWe are in operation and another reactor of 235 MWe at Narora will start producing power shortly. Indigenously produced radioisotopes are being used in about 330 Medical Institutions benefitting about 6,00,000 patients annually. Cobalt-60 sources are supplied to cancer hospitals for Radiotherapy purposes. Medical products are being sterilised using Gamma Radiation from Cobalt-60 sources. Radioisotopes sources, and Radiotracer Techniques are used in industry for quality control and for effecting improvements in production processes. Radiation techniques are being used in agriculture for mutation breeding and are expected to be used for food preservation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Collaboration with other countries in the peaceful uses of atomic energy includes arranging workshops to share knowledge in utilisation of Radioisotopes and Radiation technologies in various fields. Training programmes have also been organised in Nuclear Physics, Operation and Maintenance of Research Reactors, Production and applications of Radioisotopes, Radiation Sterilisation of Medical products, Industrial Tracer Technology for the benefit of participants from countries of South East Asia and far Eastern Region.

Research on AIDS

784. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a well-known Indian Microbiologist working in the United States has cautioned India against wasting money in research on AIDS (Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome);

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to this Microbiologist AIDS virus will not kill even 20 persons a year;

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government on this report; and

(d) whether the research on AIDS is continuing in spite of such warning and if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the news report stating that an Indian Microbiologist working in USA cautioned India against wasting money in research on AIDS.

(c) and (d) According to the information available with the WHO, AIDS has spread to all the countries over the world. As of 1st December, 1988, a cumulative global total of 1,29,385 cases of AIDS has been reported to the World Health Organization, Global Programme on AIDS. Global research efforts have been intensified to find out the extent of the disease, modes of transmission, drugs for treatment and vaccine for prevention of AIDS.

For reasons yet unknown, India and other Asian countries have been affected least by the HIV infection. Only 29 full blown cases of AIDS have been detected in India.